Nicole Clark

Ms. Yevchak, Period 3

Within The Borders of Baltimore

In 2007 there were 3,002 homeless people in the striking city of Baltimore. Of that disappointing high number, there was an astonishing 766 on the streets. I attend a huge youth group every Sunday at Emanuel Baptist Church in Richland that seems to find this heart-breaking. We, as a group, then decided on collecting items of clothing, preparing snacks, and had discussions on ways to encourage them during the Christmas season. With all the preparations going on to help them, I was also working on preparing myself. This would not only be a sad experience but a scary one too. I had called my family and asked them to bring me old, warm clothes and shoes when they came to thanksgiving dinner. As they started showing up, I was overwhelmed with pride overlooking the garbage bags of belongings they had collected. As it turns out, they were very proud of me too for reaching out to help these people in bad circumstances. Plus, along with all of these clothes from my family, my boss also made a huge donation of clothes and shoes. The, on top of that, she even gave me toys from the old subway kids’ meals to give to the children in Baltimore. I was excited everyone was working to help me help these homeless people. When getting ready to leave the next morning, a local store had donated ham, cheese and bread, so we got in an assembly line to make around five hundred sandwiches, ketchup included. In our little snack bags, we also added chips and a cookie. When we were actually in the city, the Red Cross let us join them on their truck where we handed out food and hot chocolate too. It was awesome to see how grateful these people were for the free food handed out generously. A month before we had decided to take this trip to Baltimore, the adults in big church had a group go down to the city and do the same thing we were planning on doing. Because they had already been there, they knew what to expect and how to prepare us mentally for it. They let us know we were going to see some very sad situations of families including young kids, for example, basically living on sidewalks. They also told us not to leave with anyone if they ask us to and to particularly not wear nice things like jewelry because even though we wish they were, not everyone is a good person and you have to watch who you trust.

After going on this day long trip, I had thought long and hard on the three to four hour trip home. It was truly heart-breaking to see some of those people. Some people were rude and stubborn of coarse, but the majority just wanted you to sit down and pray with them and were thanking you over and over again, it was very gratifying that not only was my family proud of me, but so was my boss and my youth leaders for being brave and reaching out to the people of Baltimore. I hope that I made an impact on them because they, very-well, made a huge impact on me.